

State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Creel Census Summary for Fisheries Management Area II

1962

This is the fifth in a series of annual summaries of creel census data collected by Area personnel during the course of law enforcement field checks and at check stations set up for law enforcement and/or fisheries management purposes. Included have been spot check, trend, and formal census data so that a written record will be available for reference in the future.

Much of the spot check data is of general interest only and cannot be interpreted as representing season-long fishing success on any given water. Even this limited data becomes of interest after several years of recording. For example, the early season checks on Deer Creek, a Salmon River tributary, have shown a consistently high catch rate year after year which could be used to point out to interested parties that the creek isn't fished out.

The minimal amount of fishing pressure indicated by the low creel checks on the Palouse River indicates that something is wrong especially since some 1,200 pounds of catchable size rainbow trout are planted in the stream each spring.

This year, where possible, I have recorded the opening day records separately for the lowland lakes and reservoirs to maintain an easily reached record of fishing pressure.

Trend census data is recorded separately in tables showing number of census days per month, percentage of hatchery trout in the creels (where possible), and other data of interest. Much of this information was collected by check station crews operated on week-end days. Supplemental trend data collected during enforcement patrols is listed separately since the breakdown into hatchery or non-hatchery rainbow trout was not made in all cases.

Since the trend census data is not expandable to total catch figures the data shown does not represent exactly what was caught during each month and the fewer checks per month, the less representative the data is.

Even with the known limitations, it is quite obvious that a high percentage of the total catch in the South Fork of the Clearwater River was made up of catchable size, hatchery rainbow trout. The catches for the major South Fork tributaries were likewise heavily supplemented by hatchery rainbow trout. The Lochsa River catches checked contained fewer hatchery trout and it appears that the small, "wild" rainbow trout (juvenile steelhead) still make up the bulk of the catch.

The cutthroat trout catch in the upper half of the Lochsa River, which was recently opened to through traffic and considerable more fishing pressure, has dropped to a very low catch-per-hour figure as was expected. What cannot be shown one way or the other is the total cutthroat trout catch. It may be that the total catch still is fairly high with many anglers catching a few cutthroat each instead of a few anglers making high individual catches.

The lengths of cutthroat trout were recorded along major streams checked to present a more clear picture of the importance of these fish to the quality of the fisheries. The following length frequency tabulation indicates that the number of quality size Cutthroat in the catches from the South Fork of the Clearwater and Red River is minor and

that of the Lochsa River is only slightly better. It must be remembered that the creel checks were made on weekend days primarily in June, July and August and reflects the fishing effort on those days.

The assistance of all the Area personnel who helped collected this data is appreciated. This program will be continued. Individual contacts will be made to request specific collection of data.

Submitted by:

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Creel Census Summary, 1962 Area II, General Season, Stress Spot Checks (limited Data collected at check stations or field checks)

Water	Anglers		Species Composition of Catch						Hours Fished	Fish/ Hour
	Res	Nres	Rb	Ct	Brk	DV	Wf	Total		
Palouse River	1							0	2	----
Salmon River:										
Deer Creek	13				194			194	NR	----
Graves Creek	17		84					84	30	2.8
Slate Creek	8		11	25		2		38	NR	----
Mallard Creek	16			98	58			156	49	3.2
Clearwater River:										
Lapwai Creek	13		50					50	11	4.8
Webb Creek	10	1	30					30	19	1.6
Mission Creek	1		7					7	2	3.5
East Fk. Potlatch	3		5					5	9	0.5
Ruby Creek	4		2		17			19	14	1.4
Big Canyon Creek	12		43					43	26	1.6
Orofino Creek	11	2	103					103	18	5.7
Rhodes Creek	27		50		1			51	37	1.4
Quartz Creek	18	2	52		10			62	17	3.6
Hildebrand Creek	3	1	2		5			7	2	3.5
Lolo Creek	2				17			17	6	2.8
Browns Creek	4		1		36			37	7	5.3
No. Fk. Clearwater	77	10	24	40		8	134	206	247	0.8
Snake Creek	6	3	1		56			57	5	11.4
Alder Creek	10		2		93			95	10	9.5
Elk Creek	16	4	14		47			61	30	2.0
Bull Run Creek	16				90			90	16	5.6
Shattuck Creek	6				43			43	14	3.1
Deep Creek	1		9					9	1	9.0
Little North Fork	16	2	2	13		1		16	14	1.1
Breakfast Creek	2	1	5	11				16	NR	
Beaver Creek	7	2	11	12				23	28	0.8
Orogrande Creek	6		8	2		2	8	20	19	1.0
French Creek	3		3		8			11	7	1.6
Weitas Creek	2							0	NR	----
Kelly Creek	3		38	3				41	26	1.6
Moose Creek	3			4			1	5	6	0.8
Middle Fork Clear.	4		3	3			7	13	41	0.3
Selway River	69	15	168	7			32	207	224	0.9
Meadow Creek	16	1	67					67	40	1.7
Gedney Creek	7		52					52	20	2.6
Ohara Creek	3		12					12	7	1.7
Running Creek	2		14	7	3			24	12	2.0
So. Fk. Clearwater	(look under trend census)									
Mill Creek*	12		16	79			1	96	45	2.1
Peasley Creek*	3		29					29	4	7.2
Johns Creek*	1			10				10	1	10.0
Red Horse Creek*	25			151	9			160	77	2.1

*Check stations operated on eight weekend days during June, July and August on lower end of South Fork Clearwater. The few anglers checked from four tributaries listed indicates limited fishing pressure.

Creel Census Summary, 1962 Area II, Lowland Lakes and Reservoirs

Water	Anglers		Species Composition of Catch					Hours Fished	Fish/ Hour
	Res	NRes	Rb	Ct	Brk	Others	Total		
Blue Lake	28	----	26				26	57	0.5
Manns Lake (open*)	253	9	300 **			30 bass	330	672	0.5
1st weekend	439	2	875			4 bass	879	1,281	0.7
Waha Lake (oen)	154	9	825				825	440	1.9
Moose Cr. Res. (open)	49	6	230			86 bullhead	316	84	3.8
all other	267	16	670			58	728	724	1.0
Winchester Lake	18					1 perch	1	17	----
Elk Creek Res.	97	1	167		33	26 bullhead	226	228	1.0
Soldier Mdw. (open)	79		237 ***				237	346	0.7
Spring Valley (open)	227	6	1,241				1,241	718	1.7
all other	181	6	570				570	477	1.2

* (open) includes checks made on opening day only.

**66 percent of rainbow checked on opening day were holdovers or non-hatchery. Pre-season plants were made on April 26 and 30 (19,800 fish) and the season opened May 1.

***No pre-season planting was made to determine if the fingerling planting in the spring of 1961 would supply fish for the first of the season. Of the rainbow checked, 108 were from the 1961 plant and the anglers unhappily reported throwing back many of the same size (5 to 6 inches). The test was complicated by diseases and the results were not conclusive.

Mountain Lakes

Water	Anglers		Species Composition				Hour
	Res	NRes	Rb	Ct	Brk	Total	
Walton Lakes (2)	6				63	63	11.0
Skookum Lake			7		47	47	NR
Post Office Lakes (2)			2		1	1	4.0
Fish Lake (Cedars)	4	3			10	10	7.0
Crystal Lake	8		3		66	69	NR
Wildhorse Lake	19	2	101		67	168	NR
20-Mile Lake	2				4	4	NR
Rainbow Lake	7				58	58	NR
Bear Cry Lake	7				48	55	NR
Hump Lake	15		38		25	63	NR
Lower Burnt Knob Lake	2				14	14	NR
Bear Lake	6				2	2	NR
Half Acre Lake	3	1			25	25	NR
Quartzite Lake	3		2		5	7	NR
Shining Lake	15				1	1	NR
Round Lake	4				24	24	NR
Mirror Lake	7				4	4	NR
East Gospel Lake	2				2	2	NR

Steelhead and Warmwater River Fisheries

Selway Falls steelhead fishery: A formal census was conducted between January 28 and May 25. Fishing activity occurred between March 11 and May 19 only. Estimated steelhead catch of licensed anglers and Nez Perce Indians is as follows:

Licensed anglers	1,317	caught	496 steelhead
<u>Nez Perce Indians</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>caught</u>	<u>405 steelhead</u>
Total angler days	1,423	total	901 steelhead

Salmon River: A total of 560 anglers with 88 steelhead were checked out of the Graves Creek road at a big game check station between September 20 and October 15. This is believed to be near the total catch for that time at the Graves Creek area.

All other warm water reports from the Snake, Clearwater, and Salmon rivers are minimal and not significant.

Trend Creel Census Data Selected Area II Streams, 1962

Month and no. of days checked	Anglers		Rainbow trout		Ct	DV	Wf	Total Catch			Hours Fished	Fish/ Hour
	Res	NRes	Total	%Hatchery				Number	%Hatchery	%Ct		
Upper Lochsa River (that portion above Lost Creek)												
June 4	57	4	91	21%	14	3	2	110	17%	1.3%	69	1.6
July 5	141	24	550	25	29	1	3	583	23	5.0	285	2.0
August 5	103	19	448	23	11	1	4	464	22	2.4	239	1.9
September 3	<u>62</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>186</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>6</u>	<u>203</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>5.4</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>1.8</u>
Total of above	363	72	1,275	22%	65	5	15	1,360	21%	4.8%	707	1.9
Lower Lochsa River (that portion from mouth to Lost Creek)												
June 7	126	23	168	NR*	53	17	1	239	NR	22.2%	268	0.9
July 3-sub.**	80	26	262	NR	43	2	1	308	NR	14.0	239	1.3
July 5-sub.	155	15	610	23%	34	1	2	647	22%	5.3	401	1.6
August 2-sub.	64	19	256	NR	10	3		269	NR	3.7	172	1.6
August 3-sub.	<u>60</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>317</u>	<u>41%</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>334</u>	<u>39%</u>	<u>4.8</u>	<u>210</u>	<u>1.6</u>
Total of above	485	91	1,613	---	156	24	4	1,797	29%***	8.7	1,290	1.4

Note: All checks were made along the stream bank as check stations were not practical along the Lochsa River.

* NR signifies that hatchery fish were not separated from others. Hatchery rainbow trout recorded are those with obvious hatchery physical characteristics.

** Since some creel checkers did not record hatchery fish, two listings are used for July and August.

***The percentage of hatchery fish recorded (29%) is that of the combined subsample, weighted.

Month and no. of days checked	Anglers		Rainbow trout		Ct	DV	Wf	Brk	Total Catch			Hours Fished	Fish/ Hour
	Res	NRes	Total	%Hatchery					Number	%Hatchery	%Ct		
South Fork of Clearwater River - Check station data													
June 3	323	7	1,152	66%	113	36	61	20	1,382	55.0	8.1	908	1.5
July 3	437	16	1,693	66	170	28	65	63	2,019	55.0	8.4	1,314	1.5
August 2	<u>60</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>249</u>	<u>75</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>261</u>	<u>71.0</u>	<u>2.7</u>	<u>168</u>	<u>1.5</u>
S. Total-8	820	24	3,094	67%	290	66	129	83	3,662	56%	7.9%	2,390	1.5
Field check data (NR: no subdivision of rainbow as to origin)													
June 8	93	6	266	NR	48	2	3	--	320	NR	15.0	239	1.3
July 4	105	5	427	NR	64	6	6	11	514	NR	12.5	318	1.6
August 1	<u>17</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>37</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>0.0</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>1.3</u>
S. total - 13	215	12	730	NR	112	8	9	11	871	NR	12.8%	585	1.5
Red River - Check station data													
June 3	39	1	215	90%	57	1	7	24	304	64%	18.7	111	2.7
July 3	<u>41</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>213</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>295</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>11.5</u>	<u>140</u>	<u>2.1</u>
S. total - 6	80	4	428	93%	91	11	29	40	599	66%	15.2%	251	2.4
Field check data													
June 10	30	8	100	NR	28	--	3	17	148	NR	18.9	71	2.1
July 2	16	10	95	NR	5	--	2	10	112	NR	4.5	58	1.9
August 1	<u>18</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>---</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>NR</u>	<u>10.0</u>	<u>53</u>	<u>0.6</u>
S. total - 13	64	18	222	NR	36	--	5	27	290	NR	12.4%	182	1.6

Trend Creel Census Data Selected Area II Streams, 1962 (continued)

Month and no. of days checked	Anglers		Rainbow trout		Ct	DV	Wf	Brk	Total Catch			Hours	Fish/ Hour
	Res	NRes	Total	%Hatchery					Number	%Hatchery	%Ct	Fished	
Crooked River - Check station data													
June 3	27	-	121	79%	40	8	37	--	206	47%	19.5%	91	2.3
July 2	<u>21</u>	-	<u>75</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>13</u>	--	<u>136</u>	<u>52</u>	<u>24.2</u>	<u>78</u>	<u>1.7</u>
S. total - 5	48	-	196	85%	73	23	50	--	342	49%	21.3%	169	2.0
Field checks - 2	19	4	50	NR	15	4	7		76	NR	19.7%	43	1.8
Newsome Creek - Check station data													
June 3	22	1	158	94%	16	1	4	--	179	83%	8.9%	75	2.4
July 2	15	3	145	80%	18	1	5	--	169	69%	10.7%	101	1.7
August 1	<u>3</u>	-	<u>---</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>2.6</u>
S. total - 6	40	4	303	87%	42	2	9	--	356	75%	11.8%	178	2.0
Field checks - 1	4	2	26	NR					26	NR		3	8.6
American River - Check station data													
June 3	11	-	14	14%	49	--	4	49	116	2%	42.3%	45	2.6
July 2	<u>13</u>	-	<u>74</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>101</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>10.9</u>	<u>69</u>	<u>1.5</u>
S. total - 5	24	-	88	31%	60	--	10	59	217	12%	27.6%	114	1.9
Field checks - 1	5	-			40				40		100	20	2.0

Length frequency distribution of sample of cutthroat trout checked in creels from selected major streams, 1963:

Lengths to nearest inch*	Number of fish recorded by stream			
	Lochsa (lower)	Lochsa (upper)	S. Fk. Of Clearwater	Red River
4	---	---	---	1
5	---	1	2	1
6	20	4	29	12
7	15	4	32	14
8	26	7	44	23
9	14	2	17	4
10	12	5	12	--
11	12	4	6	--
12	9	1	3	--
13	1	--	---	--
14	5	--	1	--
15	1	--	---	--
16	---	--	---	--
17	---	<u>1</u>	---	--
Total number	115	29	147	55

Census takers did not in every case measure the fish with a ruler. Estimations of length are considered fairly accurate when only one or two fish were checked. Recordings such as: ("six cutthroat - 6 to 12 inches") were not used in the sample.